MODERN TIMES

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Hazel St. Strikers Win Eviction Halt

Mrs. Gwendolyn Lewis stands outside her home at 105 Hazel St. the day after a judge ruled against landlords Rea-Maffeo, who were trying to evict her. (M-T photo by Cookie Polan.)

by Raphael Podolsky

Law Student Working with Dickerman St. Rent Strike

On July 27 the Hazel Street rent strike won the first round in its battle against the Rea-Maffeo Corporation, owner of four buildings in the 100 block of Hazel Street in New Haven.

In the first of the eviction cases to come to court, involving Mrs. Gwendolyn Lewis of 105 Hazel Street, circuit court Judge George G. DiCenzo rejected the testimony of Joseph Rea, the landlord, and ruled that Mrs. Lewis had never agreed to pay a rent increase and could therefore not be evicted for refusing to pay higher rent.

The Rea-Maffeo Corporation (owned by Joseph Rea and Robert Maffeo) bought the four buildings at the end of 1970 and, effective February 1, 1971, raised all rents to $135. At the time, rents in the 24 units covered ranged from $80 to $110. About a dozen families joined the rent strike, offered the landlord the old rent, which he refused, and then began paying their rent into an escrow account. "Nobody felt the apartments were worth the raise in rent," says Mrs. Lewis.

Stopping An Eviction

Rea-Maffeo responded by filing eviction actions for "non-payment of rent." The tenants, represented by Edward J. Dolan of New Haven Legal Assistance, successfully argued that the tenant must agree to the rental rate before it can be binding on him.

This principle, reaffirmed by Judge DiCenzo, is an important one, for it can block a landlord from raising a tenant's rent unilaterally. For it to apply, however, according to Dolan, the tenant must first formally tender the landlord the old rent as full payment of the month's rent, and the landlord must refuse to accept it. It is best to make this payment by certified check or money order. This method cannot, however, prevent the landlord from terminating the tenancy on other grounds and evicting on those grounds.

The tenants also argued that Rea-Maffeo was entitled to no rent at all because of the condition of the buildings, but that argument was not considered by the court. The four buildings have been on orders from the City Division of Neighborhood Improvement (DNI) since February 23, 1971, after housing inspectors cited a total of 342 housing code violations in the 16 apartments which were then occupied, an average of more than 20 per apartment.

According to DNI records, about one third of these are still not in compliance with the Housing Code five months after the orders were issued. Criminal charges were lodged against the owners on April 9, but to date the city has failed to proceed to trial. The tenants say that Rea-Maffeo claims to have completed repairs.

Landlords Milk Welfare

Tenants at the Hazel Street buildings believe that Rea-Maffeo wants to rent

See HAZEL STREET, page 11

At Hungry Charley's

NLRB Orders Union Recognition

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has officially recognized the union formed in January by the workers at Hungry Charley's and has ordered Restaurant Associates (RA), which owns the York St. restaurant, to bargain with the workers.

Such a favorable, pro-union ruling is rarely given by the NLRB. Usually the Board will only go so far as to order a union recognition election.

The NLRB ruling stemmed from an unfair labor practices charge by the union, Local 217 of the Hotel and Restuarant Employees and Bartenders Union, AFL-CIO, against the owners of Hungry Charley's. A hearing was held in New Haven on June 8.

Workers at Hungry Charley's went on strike Feb. 11. The restaurant was closed down after the first day of the strike by strikers with strong community support and a customer boycott. It was reopened on April 16. The workers demanded recognition of Local 217 as their bargaining agent.

RA not only refused to recognize the union but also tried to bribe the strikers with offers of higher wages if they abandoned the union. According to labor law, such offers constitute an unfair labor practice.

The Majority

The NLRB examiner, Thomas A. Ricci, found that on January 29, 1971, when the Union first demanded recognition from RA, it represented a majority of the employees.

Therefore, "it then was, and has since continued to be, the exclusive representative of all employees" at Hungry Charley's "for the purposes of collective bargaining with respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment and other conditions of employment."

Throughout the June 8 hearing, RA representatives stated they had reason to doubt that a majority of the workers at Hungry Charely's wanted a union. RA further claimed that, on those grounds, it had a right to insist upon a secret NLRB election before recognizing the union.

The union had chosen to prove its majority status on the basis of signed cards because the usual turnover of workers in this kind of business makes an election, with all of its delays, a problem.

Scott St. John leads picket line in February during Hungry Charley's strike that led to union recognition. (M-T photo by V. Blaisdell.)

Broad Social Attitudes

However, RA chose not to ask for an election during the strike even though it had the legal right to do so. RA claimed during the hearing that it doubted the reliability of the union cards because of the "employees' personal appearance, style of life and broad social attitudes revealed during the stike."

NLRB examiner Ricci wrote in response to RA's doubts about the union cards:

"Some of the employees wear their hair long, have beards, go about in unconventional--that is, not conservative or old fashioned--clothing. They were referred to, and sometimes called themselves, hippies or "street people." He concluded that:

"Personal sensibilities apart, there is nothing in the law or in Board precedent saying these people cannot, like all others, indicate their pro-union desires as Hungry Charley's employees did in signing the proper cards."

RA Tries Bribes

There were many instances in the hearing report where Ricci totally descredited the testimony of Restaurant Associates managers. RA officials repeatedly denied having used bribes of higher wages to urge Hungry Charley's strikers to abandon their union effort.

For example, restaurant manager Michael Merriam claimed that he made no mention of the union when offering strikers increased wages and benefits to return to work. Several strikers contradicted Merriam and Said that rejection of the union was a precondition for a raise. NLRB examiner Ricci did not believe Merriam.

The report concluded the company offers of higher pay were "coercive attempts" to deter the strikers from their "pro-union resolve."

The report continues that these attempts were a violation of the law, even though, when the workers abandoned the strike after seven weeks, they did not even get the promised benefits.

ITT-Levitt Land Deal

Retire Your Money: Go to Florida

by Two Area Sheep – Still Unfleeced

When was the last time a large corporation invited you to dinner? It has escaped my memory, except for last week, that is. Two of us were invited by International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) and its subdivision, Levitt Corporation, international home builders, to a meal, free of charge. It turned out the only thing it cost us was our credulity.

At 7:00 on the appointed evening, we walked into a fashionable restaurant and were ushered into its side-room. There before our eyes were six glittering tables (the shape of roulette tables, I noticed), and at each table sat a company representative. Directly in front of us, a slide projector constantly flashed lush and lusty scenes of Florida "living," such as a young couple running sterotypically along the beach, a young couple, dress-undress uncertain, lying in the sand, egrets and sunsets, etc., –all in deliciously intimate isolation from other humans.

Propaganda Techniques

Our representative carefully sat us next to him and immediately started to fire away the questions, while the fruitcup got warm. He asked why we were interested in Florida, what I did for a living, etc. Questions of finances were conspicuous by their absence. He had a handsome briefcase, and it was jammed full of papers and pamphlets, which he teased us with by bringing out a little at a time. I could see it all in his head: two minutes for get-acquainted chitchat; five minutes for preliminary presentation; one minute for "sinking-in;" six minutes for anticipation of questions, eat first course, etc. He was pretty good at his act, no Sally Rand, of course, but he looked like a salesman not too sure about his task, but convinced that he must appear convincing. And through it all, the click-click of the slide projector sliding up our leg.

The pitch was: Levitt Corp. had purchased "most" of a tract of land about 30 miles long on the east coast of Florida, between Daytona Beach (for swingers) and sleepy St. Augustine. The spacing of houses was to be approximately 2½ per acre. Called Palm Coast, the place would have (does not now) a golf course; tennis courts, swimming pool, marina and yacht club. Whether you bought land to live on or just for an investment, you couldn't go wrong, we were assured, because our representative owned property down there which had gone up in value $400 in five months. We were to buy our lot sight-unseen now, and, in a few months, we would be flown down there for $89.95 each for a free weekend to inspect our purchase–money refunded if not satisfied. (The flight was required before we could get our money back).

Between Courses

During and between courses we were given more sales pitches through movies, the first of which began with a northern winter in slush and smog, traffic and puddles, everybody commuting to ugly jobs. Then flash to a speedboat, a lanky couple running up and down the desolate beach, fishermen. The message came through: Connecticut is unpleasant work, Palm Coast is clean and fun. Graphs superimposed themselves on the sunset. Population of Florida shooting up since 1950, labor market up since 1960, and land values up, up, up...well at least until 1968, 1969 when they seemed to level off??

Another movie interviewed Connecticut couples all of whom had bought land sight unseen, flown to Florida, fallen in love with Palm Coast, and invested even more. We, of course, should follow their behavior.

Wined, Dined, But Not Signed

As the meal ended, the pressure mounted, and our irritation increased. We wouldn't have minded a straightforward sales talk, but the hoopla we were subjected to made us feel like ninnies. Every time the MC paused, all the reps. at the various tables would applaud, or yell hurray, "You said it", creating a false sense of competition and enthusiasm and marking themselves as shills. The greats of our age were quoted on making money from real estate: Bernard Baruch, Will Rogers, and John Jacob Astor.

Points that were bypassed:

Them: The beaches look deserted and lovely, don't they?

Us: Sir, didn't you tell us over 375,000 people are expected to move to Palm Coast?

Them: No pollution down here, folks, pure, clean air.

Us: Oh, look at this, the name of that cute little railroad is Lehigh Portland Cement Co. R.R. Does that mean there is a cement factory nearby?

Them: Of course all of our facilities, such as the yacht club, golf course, etc., will be free.

Us: Oh, I see, except for dues and membership fees, etc.

Them: *You couldn't find a nicer place to live.*

Us: Live, yes,ah, are there any jobs to be had, schools, and what lind of zoning do they have? Oh, you don't know.

Them: You can't go wrong, the developer pays everything but the property tax.

Us: What is the . . . oh, you don't know.

Them: Here's an aerial view, see all the trees?

Us: But what will happen to them when people start to build . . . oh, you couldn't say.

Them: You'll always be sure of having good neighbors.

Us: By the way what are all these specially marked areas throughout the map . . . oh, you don't know, Levitt doesn't own them.

Them: You have to act quickly, now, in order to freeze your price, or else your property will go up.

Us: It's interesting, but we can't just make a snap decision about thousands of dollars. ($4300 to be precise – the lowest priced lot on the development).

Them: I guess you're just not ready. Too bad.

Us: Well, where can we reach you after we've thought it over?

Them: I don't carry cards. This is the deal of the century, believe me. It's now or never. Here's your contract all made out with your names and everything. All you have to do is sign. Simple?

Us: *Hmmmmmm. This deal may be simple, but we're not. Goodbye.*

WU Lays Off NewWorkers

by Art Fleischner
Modern Times Staff

Despite tough language by union negotiators in Washington, D.C. and a much improved contract for the 17,000 United Telegraph Workers (UTW) around the country, all is not well at the Western Union office in New Haven.

The 34 members of Local 37 (UTW) were assured of job security, but 12 of them have received 15-day layoff notices. These are all people with less than five years seniority.

One of the union gains was to ensure job security; however, this does not include those with less than five years. And so the company is still able to cut down its total work force.

Local 37 President, Joe Annunziata said, "We won a ten percent wage hike the first year and a nine percent hike the second year, but it's tough on those working less than five years."

There were improvements in the hospitalization plan; group life insurance was raised 25 percent; per diem allowances were raised for all employees who travel; and those with 25 years of service or more (several people in New Haven come under this category) will now get five weeks vacation instead of four.

The 57-day strike was hard on union members in New Haven, especially because there are so few jobs around. For those with less than five years seniority, *the future is not bright. For those with seniority, it looks much better.*

Roraback to Head Lawyers Guild

by April Reiss
Modern Times Staff

Catherine Roraback, New Haven 's famed rights lawyer, was elected president of the National Lawyers Guild on Sunday, August 2, at their annual convention. She is uniquely qualified for the position because she brings to it a history of a long association with lawyers working for social change from the late 1940 's to the present.

I spoke with Roraback about the origin of the Guild. She said, "it was an organization which began in 1937 and was committed to altering the conditions of our society through changes and adopations of the law."

It is no coincidence that the same year that the guild voted to elect Roraback their president, they voted to redefine eligibility of membership. Guild members will now include legal workers who are not lawyers.

This concept of doing away with the elitism inherent in professional organizations is a new idea that has been difficult for the older generation to accept.

Because of this restructuring of the membership, the special talents of Roraback will become most visible as she 'bridges the generation gap' between the older and newer guild members by incorporating some peoples' experienced judgement as well as other peoples' innovative ideas.

Main Task

"One main task of the Guild for the coming year will be to work out the role of all legal workers without exploiting anyone," said Roraback. This egalitarian view of people, regardless of academic degrees, already exists in the communal practices of many Guild lawyers thoughout the country.

Catherine Roraback, new president of the National Lawyers Guild.(M-T Photo by Cookie Polan)

Both lawyers and laymen work as a team, sharing the 'junk jobs' as well as the responsibilities. Though only lawyers may represent people in court, there are many meaningful jobs that can be done by skilled laymen, such as interviewing witnesses, research, and drafting briefs.

Roraback feels that the "restructuring of the Guild membership is a real attempt to face the issues of social change."

Legal Arm for Change

"The Guild is the legal arm of the movement for radical social change." Members discuss legal procedure involving clients who are outspoken critics of American society.

The Guild tackles such topics as the grand jury system, welfare rights, and prisoners' rights. There is a law project that assists people involved in military cases. There will be an extension of this committee closer to the troops in Southeast Asia.

Women and the Law

Another area where Roraback's background will be helpful concerns women and the law. Her experience as a woman in the courtroom will be useful in the struggle to obtain equal opportunities for women.

"Our courts are filled with male judges, sheriffs, lawyers, and even predominately male juries. This is the way the system operates."

With our heightened conciousness concerning womens rights, and leaders like Catherine Roraback, perhaps the legal system will improve for lawyers, lay legal workers, and their clients.

LABOR NOTES

STEEL WORKERS WIN: STEEL COMPANIES RETALIATE

The United Steelworkers of America has just negotiated the largest wage increases in its history--an increase of 30% over three years. After 300,000 steelworkers added leverage with a vote to strike the steel companies finally gave in at the last minute.

The steel companies struck back the next day, Aug. 2, by announcing an 8% price indrease. General Motors also added some icing to the corporate cake with an average price increase of $150 a car on its 1972 models.

The steelworkers contract included a cost-of-living escalator for the second and third years of the contract. They did not win the right to strike on local grievances. This has been a strong demand of militant rank-and-file leaders.

WORKERS PAY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

From the Morgan Guaranty Trust Co.:

"In terms of legal responsibility, the Social Security tax burden is shared by the employer and the employee. Actually in the view of most students of tax incidence, the worker winds up paying a major share of the total tax - one half directly as a payroll deduction and most of the other half indirectly either in the form of higher prices for goods and services or in lower wages and fringes than the employer would otherwise be able to pay."

– *Morgan Guaranty Survey*, March, 1971

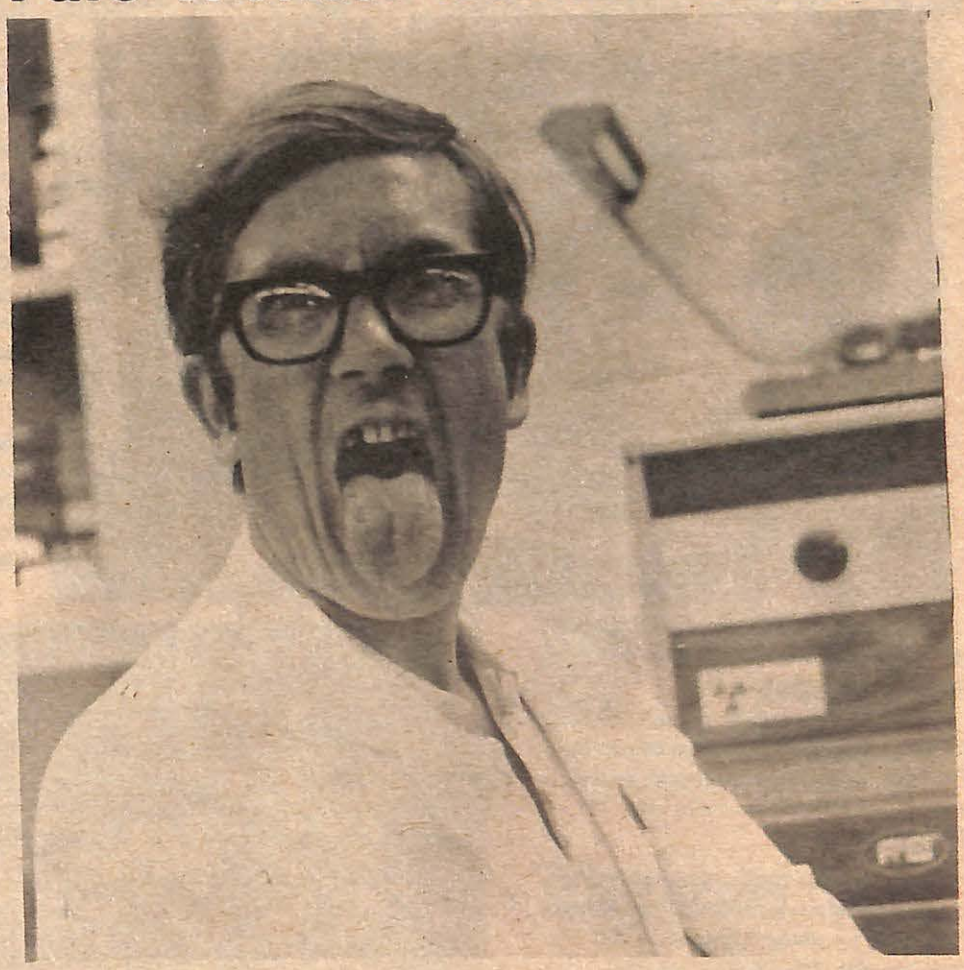
CONN. TELEPHONE WORKERS RATIFY CONTRACT

The nine-day strike of 11,000 Connecticut telephone workers represented by the Connecticut Union of Telephone Workers ended with a tentative agreement on July 22 with the Southern New England Telephone Company (SNETCO), but until all the ballots were in, the contract wasn't settled.

Union members voted by mail ballot. The results were overwhelmingly in favor of the new three year contract with SNETCO. In the balloting 7035 voted yes, 795 voted no, with 405 ballots voided.

The wage increases averaged 14% for the first year and 3% for each of the next two years of the contract. Also included in the wage package was a cost of living escalator for the second year of the contract.

Yale Worker Reacts to Raise



Yale Non-Faculty Action Committee (YNFAC) member Bill Berndtson reacts to small size of raise recently granted by Yale. (Photo courtesy of YNFAC.)

Long, Hard Fairview Strike Gains Ground

by Cookie Polan
Modern Times Staff

The tide is beginning to turn in favor of the strikers at the New Fairview Hall Convalescent Home in Fair Haven Heights. Over 50 employees there have been on strike since May 7 to get recognition for their union, Local 1199 of the Hospital and Nursing Home Employees Union.

The New Haven Board of Aldermen, at its July 26 meeting, passed a resolution by unanimous consent urging Governor Meskill to intervene in the dispute. In addition, activist Bishop J.F. Donnelly, who helped mediate the grapeworkers' strike, has agreed to aid the union.

Perhaps more importantly, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) will soon rule on the beginning of a 60-day posting period, after which there will be a union recognition election.

The start of the posting period had been delayed because the management of the nursing home claimed that there were so many serious charges of unfair labor practices against the union that a hearing was necessary.

Charges Dismissed

However, now many of the "serious" charges have been dismissed and it appears that the strikers will get their election by mid-October.

In another action favorable to the union, the NLRB has decided to issue a formal charge that the management incorrectly fired Mrs. Louise Tierney, attempted to bribe her and harrassed other employees who wanted a union.

According to Jerry Brown, a Local 1199 organizer, the firing of Mrs. Tierney was the immediate cause of the strike.

The NLRB hearing is scheduled for August 19 in New Haven, although management may be granted a one-week delay if it is requested.

Key Issue

The outcome of the hearing is the "key point" in the strike, according to Brown.

"If the government upholds its charge that Louise was fired unjustly, there's no way the scabs will be able to vote in an election and the issue of back pay can be discussed," he explained.

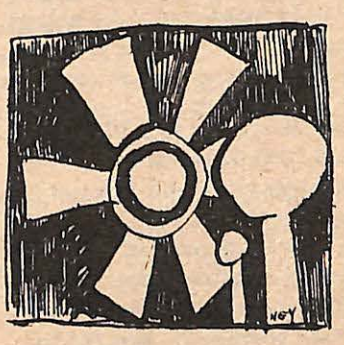
The union plans to compile a list of other alleged unfair labor practices against management that can be used to bolster their case. For example, several of the employees have stated that they have been offered bribes by the owners of the nursing home.

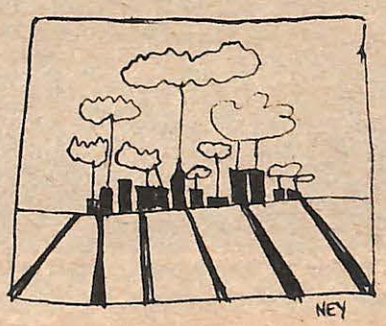
In the meantime, the union will continue picketing at Fairview Hall-- to maintain a presence and also to turn away union people who may come to make deliveries.

Brown cited as examples of the importance of picketing the facts that the Hartford Provisions Company now leaves its deliveries at the Grand Avenue Bridge, and the management is forced to go down in station wagons to pick up the supplies. Telephone workmen also will not enter the the nursing home to make repairs when pickets are present.

Because some of the workers have been forced to take other jobs, it has been more difficult to maintain the picket strength. "But we have to keep up the line--they count the pickets," Brown emphasized at a strikers' meeting last week.

Striking employees of the Fairview Hall Convalescent Home held a rally last Sunday to show the nursing home's management that their spirit is still strong in the fourth month of the strike. (M-T photo by Howie Moskovitz)





FACTS ON STRIKE

Facts about the strike at New Fairview Hall Convalescent Hospital, Clifton Street, New Haven:

- Union: Local 1199 of National Union of Hospital and Nursing Home Employees , R.W.D.S.U. - A.F.L.-C.I.O.

- Management: New Fairview Hall Convalescent Hospital owned by Charles and Edward Brennick and Daniel Donovan of Boston, Mass.

- In January and February of this year 50 to 55 workers (90%) signed cards for Local 1199. One worker was offered a $200 bribe to work against the union and was fired when she refused and told the other workers about the offer.

- On May 6, 1971 the Union began a strike for two objectives:
1. The reinstatement of the fired worker.
2. A quick election for Union representation.

- The strike was not immediately effective because the State Welfare Dept. refused to cut off its $600,000 subsidy to the home or order the patients moved.

- This gave the home weeks to hire strikebreakers, most of whom are young college girls.

- The present situation is that the workers remain on strike awaiting the National Labor Relations Board election.

The People Do Not Want This Highway

Young opponents of Route 34 gathered at a press conference held Monday, August 9, by the Anti-Route 34 Coalition, to dramatize opposition to the highway before that night's meeting of the Board of Aldermen. On hand were mayoral contenders Sirabella, Parker and Capra, as well as State Sen. Lieberman, and several aldermen. All voiced their opposition to the twelve-lane highway which would sever the Hill and Dwight neighborhoods completely.

But the Aldermen seem not to have heard the voices of protest, and defeated the resolution of Alderman Joe Bartlett to stop Route 34. His resolution will however, be reconsidered in September.

(M-T photo by C. Polan.)

Asa Jones (seated) lives in the path of Route 34. He's ill and hasn't been able to work for two years.

Jones is on welfare, so the welfare department pays his rent to the state. The state now owns his house, and it will be demolished to make way for the highway.

Jones and his family live in a boarded-up apartment surrounded by garbage. They have no place else to go. The state has said they must move, but the city redevelopment agency says they'll find a new home for the Jones family.

And so Asa Jones sits and waits, and watches hearings and promises about Route 34 go by. (M-T photo by Alan Kay.)

'Buildings Burn But Movements Go On.'

by Charles Scheiner
Parker Campaign Worker

"Buildings burn but movements go on, "read the impromptu sign in the broken window of the burned-out New Politics Corner last May. The members of this movement, variously known as the Democratic Alliance, Parker for Mayor, Moratorium, McCarthy for President, etc., etc., are now thinking of having the sign printed. Their office was destroyed by fire for the second time in fifteen months on the evening of Thursday, July 29.

For the Parker campaign, that Thursday evening was D-Day minus one; Friday was the deadline for the critical Party enrollment drive which was to gain Parker a thousand votes in the September 22 primary. There were several hundred ''pink slips,'' the forms which represent newly-enrolled voters, in the office Thursday afternoon. An all-out media, staff, and volunteer effort had been escalating, aiming toward Friday's deadline, and things were going well.

A Dangerous Evening

By a combination of paranoia and prescience, Campaign Manager Lee Wallace decided that Thursday looked like a dangerous evening and removed the enrollment forms from the office early in the evening. Little did he know that his hunch was right.

By 10:15 things had quieted down; there were about ten people at a meeting on voter enrollment and another five or so working in the office. Passers-by in the street told the intrepid Parker people that the upper floors of their building were on fire. And so they were.

A massive evacuation program was begun. Records, ward lists, files, literature, supplies, and even some furniture were removed from the office onto the sidewalks in the pouring rain. Fortunately, nearly all of the campaign's vital material was shifted from the flames to the rain before the ceiling began to fall in. The fire began upstairs, where there was no one at the time, and all occupants of the headquarters had plenty of time to get out safely.

Three alarms were turned in before the firefighters got the blaze under control, and it took sixty men, three of whom were injured, to cool things down.

One fireman was overheard to remark at the scene "whoever set this one really knew what they were doing. They must have set it in the stairway so it went right to the roof."

On Friday, which was to have been the last day of an all-out enrollment drive, tired and depressed Parker workers continued the evacuation efforts. They rented a truck and borrowed numerous station wagons to move their inventory temporarily to the campaign's Dwight and Dixwell neighborhood offices, waiting until a new downtown location could be found. (It has since been found, and the campaign headquarters is now at *490 State St.)*

***The cost? Three injured firemen,* one building (whose wood frame is so weakened that it has to be torn down), uncountable financial loss in furtniture, etc (in addition, several upstairs tenants suffered total losses), and about a week of disrupted campaign operations.**

People who were in the Parker office just prior to this year's fire heard noises upstairs (although the building was ostensibly empty), and there are theories that the fire started in more than one place simultaneously. But it is the coincidence of two lost headquarters in a little over a year that is most suspicious.

Parker for Mayor headquarters in flames July 29. Parker, New Haven's first black candidate for mayor, has had his offices burned down twice in one year. (M-T photo by J. Alexander.)

WelfareMOMS Blast White's Rent Policies

by the New Haven Welfare MOMS

Mrs. Matilda Gibbs, president of the New Haven Welfare MOMS, has charged Henry White, Commissioner of Welfare, with irresponsible action in regards to his new directives concerning rent and his refusal to meet with the MOMS or the New Haven Landlords Association.

Mr. White has sent out directives informing welfare recipients that, as of November 1, their rent will no longer be paid as charged. Rather, they will be given money to cover rent only up to the state guidelines. These guidelines have not been revised for some time, and the maximum rent for the largest families is only $160. Some public housing units cost as much as $200, and similar private housing would have to cost more since the private landlord pays property taxes.

Lack of Choice

White offers welfare recipients three alternatives. Either convince your landlord to lower his rent, or find a new apartment at a lower rent rate, or find outside sources of income to pay the rent. Mrs. Gibbs emphasizes the lack of choice this leaves the recipient. She said that you can't expect a landlord to go back to the prices he charged ten years ago. There is a housing shortage as things stand, and large families will not be able to find new apartments

If welfare families had outside sources, they could turn to for help with their rent they would not be on welfare in the first place. This means that the rent would have to be paid out of the already inadequate food and clothing allowances. So the real choice White offers is between starving and being thrown out on the streets.

Lack of Concern

White's lack of concern for people is further shown in a new directive to social workers. The directive tells social workers not to help recipients find housing, and it places a 14-day limit on emergency housing. On the average it takes a family in emergency housing one month to find a permanent apartment. With the new rent restrictions, it will take even longer. The New Haven Welfare MOMS and the Landlords Association made a trip to Hartford to confront White with their problems brought on by his new policy on Friday, July 30. White ducked out of his office to avoid seeing them and , then he turned down the MOMS' invitation that he see them the following Thursday, August 5, in New Haven. He has said that he has no intentions of meeting with recipients. This is just a further example of his disregard for the recipients whose lives he is affecting.

The New Haven Welfare MOMS feel that a Welfare Commissioner who will not even meet with recipients and who will not meet the needs of the recipients in such a vital matter as housing must be replaced.

Walkers Raise Funds

There were 450 students from the Greater New Haven area who took part in the Walk for Development. Each walker had a sponsor who paid from one to five cents a mile, the proceeds of which were to be given to community service organizations.

The walk raised a total of $6,500, of which $293 was spent for administrative expenses. $2,617 was sent to Quaker Service Vietnam program. $1,847 went to the work of an advocate/community organizer in the Spanish speaking community of New Haven. $1,693 was given to the New Haven Free Food Council.

Open Line

Socialism For Rich ; Competition For Poor

by Mike Holodnak

Today even the most babbling of village idiots - even if he doesn t actually know it - feels it in his bones that we have in this country a predatory, dog-eat-dog society, owned and controlled by big money, completely devoid of democracy. Yet, we are constantly being told that this is a democraticfree enterprise system.

If this is a free enterprise system, then why is it that the preachers and espousers of free enterprise, that is, those who own and control our economy, will not touch free enterprise with a ten-foot-pole?

It' s simply because they do not have to. They are protected by laws which they make and which also give them the right to make wars, hold millions of people in financial bondage, poison the land, air and water for profit, and on top of that they also get heavy subsidies for their privately-owned airlines, railroads, shiplines, big corporation farms,etc. from taxes collected from the majority of the American people who have to work for a living and who do not have such guarantees. In short the rich do not have to indulge in the sweaty practice of free enterprise the way the working people are forced to do. The rich have complete socialized, from cradle to grave, protection while denouncing and conditioning the workers into believing that the best way to survive or get ahead is through the free enterprise system.

In this respect the opinion-makers, through their monopoly communications media, have done a very good brainwashin job. They have managed to convince most people that free enterprise really exists for everyone with the result that the poor practice it with enthusiasm, fiercely competing with each other, stealing and even killing each other for survival; knowing that,though this type of behavior may not be right, there' s always the chance that they might hit it big enough to become respectable. But, of course, except for the real big gangsters like Al Capone or the giant multi-national corporations, nobody ever does, and so our jails keep getting jammed up with people whose only crime was that they tried to imitate the rich, a feat which they could not successfully do on their limited resources.

Stealing to become lawful and respectable must be done on a grand scale. Anything less is automatically classified as a crime.

Therefore, throwing the poor into jails for behaving the only way they are conditioned to behave will not solve anything. All it will do is cause the unemployed, the garnisheed, the bankrupted and those who have been taxed out of house and home, to become even more angry. The result of this escalating anger could very well cause enough people to realize that there' s got to be a better way than cutting each other' s throats for survival. It may very well cause people to demand being included into the socialism that the rich are already enjoying so that they too can begin living like decent human beings.

'THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM'

Rail Bosses Stumble Over Union Tracks

by Slipry Rail
A Worker on the Railroad

The facts are not all in yet, but it appears that the complex and delicate maneuvers carried out by the United Transportation Union (UTU) under the guidance of President Charles Luna, has led to a resounding victory-for the union and its members (brakemen, conductors, firemen, et al.).

The negotiating, litigating, politicking, and occasional striking dragged on for two-and-a-half years. The final phase was selective or "whipsaw" strikes on a few railroads at a time, starting July 15. This tactic deprived Tricky Dicky Nixon of a "national emergency" and an excuse to force a settlement on his terms.

On the other hand, it gave the manage ments of those railroads not tied up by the strike a chance to try out some of the "economies" that they had been panting after for years. (For example, the crews of several freight trains gather up the cars for their train in the starting terminal, so that a yard crew can be laid off.)

It seems that these "economies" didn't make a big difference, and that is one reason why, in the agreement reached Aug. 2, most of management's demands for "rules changes eliminating featherbedding" were dropped.

The agreement (some details still remain to be worked out) gives UTU members a series of raises starting with 4% retroactive to last April 1. The raises will total 42% over two years, plus a ninth paid holiday per year.

Racists War on Blacks of Cairo

The small city of Cairo, Illinois, lies at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers on the border between the North and the South. White racists in the area have long *waged war on black people by means ranging from discrimination to outright murder.*

The black community of Cairo has been resisting nonviolently by conducting an effective boycott of white-owned businesses for the past 27 months. The blacks have decided to stop supporting white businesses that disciminate against them.

The Real Problem

Under the direction of the Rev. Charles Koen, blacks have organized themselves into the United Front, an organization committed to solving the problems of Cairo by building low-income housing and food cooperatives.

Rev. Koen has said that the real problems of Cairo are political and economic problems. *About half the families in Cairo live on an income of less than $3000 per year.*

"Unemployment rates are among the highest in the country. More than one-third of the houses in Cairo were declared substandard by a government survey."

The police force is all white. The few token black policemen resigned because of personal intimidation and discrimination and because the police sided with the whites against the blacks.

There have been more than 175 shootings and attacks on the black ghetto, which is now like a battlefield.

Andy Mellor, Deedee Aleran, Randy McMahon and Jack Smith, Connecticut members of VVAW, load food and clothing into truck before trip to Cairo, Illinois. (M-T photo by C. Polan.)

Vietnam Vets, Cairo Blacks Fight Racism

by April Reiss
Modern Times Staff

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) have joined the black people of Cairo, Illinois, in their struggle against oppression. To help the blacks in their boycott of racist merchants, the VVAW has brought *in food, clothing and medical supplies.*

I asked Jack Smith, a New Haven Vietnam Veteran, why the VVAW wanted to get involved in Cairo and risk the possibility of diminishing their antiwar work. He said that "the rationale that permits the U.S. to deny Vietnamese the basic right to determine their own political and economic destiny is a form of racism." He also said that one of the tactics used by the U. S. command in Vietnam is racism. Murder is depersonalized by labeling enemies 'gooks' or 'blacks'!

"Racism is manifested in the entire military structure. The theory that the military is non-discriminatory in job selection breaks down because blacks have inferior housing, economic security, and education at home. When they take army tests, which are devised using white middle-class norms, they end up at the bottom of the lists. The result is that 34% of the combat units are black, while most of the better clerical jobs go to whites."

Thus the Viet Vets connect the problems in Cairo with those in Vietnam. When the blacks of Cairo began to demand a share of Cairo's life, the white racists determined to deny this to them. Cairo is one case of extreme racism in our society, and the VVAW opposes racism in the military and at home.

Smith also said, "The people in Cairo are running the show, and we're just lending them some support." He added that the VVAW spoke with Cairo's United Front (UF), which recommended the VVAW do two things.

"One is to focus attention on the plight of the people of Cairo. Though the whole country has severe racial problems, Cairo has erupted into a place of daily, violent confrontations," said Smith.

"The second thing is to assist blacks with supplies and skilled people. The UF is beginning to build low income housing and food cooperatives.

"We could do the same thing in dozens of other places around America."

Editorial

The Housing Crisis

For many years, housing in our city has been in short supply. The problem isn't new, but goes back to the end of World War II. The ways in which New Haven has tried to deal with this problem reveal a lot about the limitations of our "free" enterprise" system.

When Richard C. Lee became mayor, he had a dream: to change the image of downtown New Haven and make it a "Model City." Lee's dream continues with the expansion of parking garages, erection of new offices, shopping centers, hotels, and bank buildings. The only thing Lee forgot was that there were lots of people living in the areas being developed whose needs were not the same as those who were interested in monumental buildings and highways.

The redevelopment of the Oak Street area caused people to leave low rent housing and go to smaller, higher rental places, squeezing themselves even closer together. A further result of Redevelopment was the break-up of neighborhoods like the Wooster Square Area, where major changes caused people to leave the place they grew up in and felt a part of and move to places with which they had no connection.

In the process of redeveloping New Haven, housing for low-income families was destroyed before replacements were built. Until three years ago, 7000 low and moderate income family units had been destroyed and only 1600 units had been built.

It won't be so easy to repair damage like this. At the end of World War II, there was also a terrible housing shortage in America. There was much talk of a great ten-year program to end the shortage. However, instead of the government's simply collecting the materials and building the housing units needed to give every American a decent home, the government balked.

The government was not prepared to tax the corporations, nor to compete with the private housing industry. So city governments like New Haven's had to beg and scrape together a little to do a little where a lot was necessary. Like all other American cities, New Haven found that the only place to get even a little was by begging large corporations to come into the city, by boosting city tax receipts, and by begging the federal government to provide assistance. The corporations require parking lots and highways, and the federal government, despite the Housing Act of 1949 provided adequate money only for highways. So, we had "urban renewal," which really amounted to wholesale reduction of housing with no money available for new housing.

In the absence of federal help, what has private business done for the housing crisis? Well, with the downturn the economy has taken in the last five years, the problems of high property taxes, inflation, and record-high interest rates combine to reduce the construction of new housing units to an historic low point.

The housing shortage was much in the minds of people at the end of World War II but was not solved because of deference to the real estate industry and the desire of large corporations not to be taxed for such purposes. In the period since then, locked into the same priorities, urban renewal has made the housing situation worse. Now, so long as the government is bound down by private industry the problem will still not be solved because of high interest rates and the high cost of building.

We've learned that if the government does not step in to solve it, the housing shortage will not be solved by private industry. What is needed is massive intervention by the federal government to construct enough housing for all its citizens.

In the short run, people can take steps which add to the pressure for such fundamental change. One example is the recent rent strikes by tenants on Dickerman St. and Hazel St., which put in no uncertain terms the demand on this society by its citizens for decent and adequate housing for all.

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MODERN TIMES is a non-profit, volunteer labor publication of the American Independent Movement

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where the hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need---not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement (AIM) has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, George Andrews, Harry Andrews, Elizabeth Bennett, Marshall Bergen, Virginia Blaisdell, Matt Borenstein, Arlene Butler, Greg Butler, Katrina Clark, Ellen Comisso, Arlyce Currie, Joan Dimow, Joe Dimow, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Steve Ellner, Art Fleischner, Marleen Gabriel, Linda Garson, Sam Goodwin, Harry Henderson, Liz Henderson, Shoshana Hersey, Larry Hogan, Peter Jackson, Alan Kay, Joyce Levine, Henry Lowendorf, Pat Lowendorf, Scott McIntosh, Alan McKnight, Art Mazer, Patti Miller, John Moldenhauer, Kathy Moldenhauer, John Moulder, Betty Murray, Laurie Nussdorfer, Barbara O'Connell, Craig O'Connell, Peter O'Connell, Cookie Polan, Pat Reilly, April Reiss, Ruth Resnick, Florie Ricciuti, Mike Sabiers, Greg Smith, Marilyn Snyder, June Taylor, Dan Vapnek, Rick Wolff.

Write on

Parker Praised

To the Editors:

Two years ago I listened carefully to the words of the man who ran for the office of Mayor of New Haven. He spoke to many groups: High School students, college youth, community organizations, professionals, working people etc. His basic message was the same--a sincere concern of the serious neglect in all areas affecting all of the citizens of New Haven and how he would strive to overcome these problems.

Conditions since 1969 with the present administration have been discouraging and frustrating. The lack of understanding human needs and the inability to successfully satisfy them is indeed evident.

Today, this man is now a candidate once again. How urgent for *all* to listen and comprehend this time--willingly and most diligently to work--to be sure that Henry Parker is elected Mayor of New Haven in November. His winning will be a victory for everyone.

Many of us were raised in this city--(my husband and I for example--who now work in the very same areas). Our parents still reside here. Many of us attended New Haven Public Schools and are now employed in this city. Our homes, however, may be in the suburbs by now!

This does not alter the fact that we can remain indifferent and silent to the crisis of an area which was HOME during our formative and impressionable years. Moreover, if our incomes are from this city--our obligation to its progress should be even greater, for this reason alone. However, the significant one should morally and ethically be that of consideration and betterment for anyone--anywhere.

Thus-People- no matter where you might reside- the suffering and inequality existing in New Haven is the concern of everyone. We must all be involved in one way or another--if all of us are to survive.

Suburbia---if time prohibits some of us from the vital volunteer work necessary in any political campaign--at least consider the fact that your monetary contributions can and must elect Henry Parker. He is the only one who will strive for the goals all are entitled to in a Democratic society.

Sincerely,

Freda G. Dunn
Teacher-Scranton School
Recording Secretary
New Haven Federation
of Teachers

Issues at Southern

To the Editors:

A change in administrative-student relations has come to SCSC with its new President, Manson VanB. Jennings. In an attempt to iron out student outrage at the manner in which the previous administration handled environmental issues, (as noted in **Modern Times**) the new President has assured members of the Environmental Awareness Council of his full cooperation in the student formulation of a long-range parking plan for the college.

The burden of showing interest in school affairs has been shifted to the students. Dr. Evan Middlebrooks' previous administration had publicly stated that the school could not be expected to respond to student opinions because of student apathy. It is time for a change.

The real issue at Southern Connecticut is the role that the University must play in the community. This concept was also one of the issues of the Yale workers' strike.

Does the University exist to serve the community, or does the University exist to exploit the community in order to perpetuate itself?

Only when the community recognizes their power and responsibility can change be brought about. This past year at Southern we have been lied to and a much-needed program in Environmental Studies *has been mired in personality conflicts. Competent faculty have been lost, and a* valuable field was destroyed for a parking lot the day before students were supposed to meet with the administration about it. Student and faculty opinions have been ignored and pressure was put upon the school newspaper to refrain from bringing to student attention the incompetence and unresponsiveness of the administration.

It has been a sad year, but there is hope for next year if the community would only wake up. The new President has been cordial, cooperative and interested; he must not be allowed to come to the conclusions of the past administrations that the students don't care - unless they really don't.

It seems that the students now have a chance to make themselves heard, and what they do with it is anybody's guess.

Sincerely,

David Emerson,
Corresponding Secretary,
Environmental Awareness
Council of Southern Conn.
State College

Why
A busy street nothing but
empty faces. Why?
Ask a stranger for the time,
you receive a peculiar look!
and the time. Why?
People walking fast, to
get behind locked doors. Why?
Oppressed people being held
down. Why?
Not old enough to vote, not
old enough to drink, old
enough to fight and die
in a strange land. Why?
Some one tell me Why?

— A. Montone

World Affairs China, Politics, And The Profit Slump

by Rick Wolff
Economist

After years of teaching American schoolchildren about how evil China is, United States policy has changed. President Nixon asked to visit Peking and is rushing to bring China into the United Nations. Where before American Presidents said that the cause of world peace was served by isolating China, now Nixon says he is bringing peace closer by bringing China into close contact with the U.S. and other countries.

One of the two major reasons for the change in the China policy is Mr. Nixon's desperate efforts to try to win re-election in 1972. The other, more long-term reason is the nearly as desperate effort of America's business leaders to solve the economic problems of a badly shaken U.S. economy.

For Nixon to win the Presidency in 1972, he must solve or appear to solve the two most pressing problems of our time: American military adventures abroad, chiefly Vietnam, and the sagging economic situation. As popularity polls and the mood of most Americans show, Nixon is not trusted.

People simply do not believe him when he claims to be ending the Vietnam War. He is a failure as far as a peaceful foreign policy is concerned. There was no doubt that the Democratic Party intended to use his foreign policy failures against him in the election. The Democrats planned to campaign - as Lyndon Johnson did in 1964 - as the Party of a fast peace in Vietnam.

So Nixon decided to jump the gun on the Democrats. He, Nixon, could appear to be the great seeker of peace in Asia by the dramatic act of going to China and sitting down with the Chinese leadership. The visit to Peking in May, 1972, just as the Presidential campaign hits full swing, will permit Nixon's public relations team to build up the image of Nixon-the-great-peacemaker, no matter how the Peking talks really work out. No one will really know until after the election. And then it won't matter, at least to Nixon.

To Aid the U.S. Economy

However much the China visit will aid Nixon's election bid, he would never have dared to make such a change in U.S. policy unless his big business backers agreed with him. What would it gain Nixon to sit in Peking if it lost him the money and support of America's business leaders?

Over the last few years, the heads of America's giant corporations have encountered increasing difficulties in managing the U.S. economy profitably. At the same time they envied the rapid forward strides made by business competitors in Europe and Japan. In particular, they came to resent the fact that American businesses were legally denied the right to trade and deal with China, while European and Japanese businesses faced no such cramping laws. The latest statistics show that most of China's foreign trade is with Japanese and European private corporations (far more than China's trade with either the USSR or the US).

True, the foreign trade of China is still small by world standards, but it is growing steadily and promises to expand rapidly in the future. The simple fact is that American businesses need to grow to keep up profits. So they want a piece of the action in China. With few exceptions, they applaud Nixon's change in the U.S. China policy.

Smiles in Peking

The Chinese must be amused by the sudden shift in the policies of the U.S. and other capitalist countries. That America's economic dilemmas force the corporations to make economic deals with the socialist economy of China can only confirm Chinese ideas about the decline of capitalism and the rise of socialism. But, of course, the Chinese government did not agree to meet with Nixon either to help him to win the election or to convenience troubled American corporations. They clearly had their own reasons. They feel that increased trade and other contacts with all the countries of the world will advance the cause of socialism as they see it.

One result of the about-face in the U.S. policy toward China is to challenge once again the simple-minded anti-communism that sits so deeply in the minds of so many Americans. Perhaps the visit of President Nixon smiling for the photographers arm in arm with Mao Tse-tung will liberate more Americans to consider once again the meaning and importance of socialism in our country's future.

HEC Seeks Funds to Run

by Art Fleischner
Modern Times Staff

The Hill Environmental Control (HEC), called "the most successful inner-city program "by observers from Washington as well as local officials, will cease functioning September 1 unless new funds are received.

This means that 26 more people will become unemployed and the health and environmental problems of the Hill will once again depend on the city. Not a glowing picture of hope if you live in the Hill.

In the two years that the agency has existed, it has cleaned rubbish and snow from the streets of the Hill, cleared and maintained parks in that area, trained over 125 teenagers in environmental work, and gone into homes and agencies, telling tenants their rights and landlords their obligations.

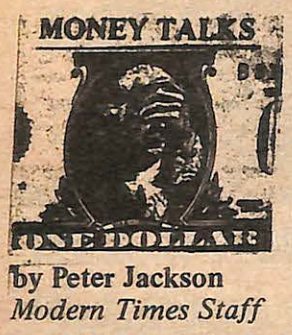
Needs Funds

Before the program expands to other neighborhoods, however, it must receive funds to keep going. For the past two years, HEC has been funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The funds were given under the Interim Assistance Program, a program designed specifically to help those cities hit by riots. Now these funds are up and the HEC is applying for Model Cities funds, which is simply another program set up by HUD.

The Hill Neighborhood Corporation has already endorsed HEC's program and proposed funding. What remains now is for an Aldermanic Committee and the full Board of Alderman to okay the proposal.

The proposal must be passed by "unanimous consent" of the full Board. The people of the Hill have already given their approval.



National Health Insurance to Make Changes

by Peter Jackson
Modern Times Staff

Ill health is feared by almost everyone. Part of that fear is because of the high and rapidly rising cost of health care. The health system is primarily concerned with making a profit - good care is secondary.

In this *health business*, doctors make a good living; drug and insurance companies make large profits from the system and there is no apparent control on rising costs.

When people are ill they are at the mercy of the doctor's monopoly; the drug companies' prices. Sick people have no choice; there is little pressure to improve or change the health system. Health care has become profit care.

The so-called non-profit health insurance organizations such as Blue Cross do little to improve this system. Blue Cross was established in the Depression to ensure that hospitals were paid. This objective they have fulfilled only too well. Whenever hospitals have raised their prices, Blue Cross has increased its premiums.

Do Nothing Blue Cross

Spokesmen for Blue Cross maintain that it can do nothing. However, it is difficult to believe an organization which handles so much health finance could be so helpless to lower costs. In 1967 in Southern New York State, 36% of all hospital bills for patient care came from Blue Cross.

The situation has reached such a disasterous state that radical changes are being attempted by representatives of the victims of our health system - the patient.

The most widely publicized of the radical proposals is the bill which is being sponsored by Edward Kennedy in the Senate and Martha Griffiths in the House.

This bill is a composite of two bills, one originated by Walter Reuther's Committee of 100 for National Health Insurance and the other introduced in the House last session by Griffiths on behalf of the AFL-CIO

This bill (S3;H.R.22, The Health Security Act of 1971) is a comprehensive and potentially constructive proposal. The major proposals of the bill are as follows:

No Income Discrimination

All residents of the United States are eligible for the one class of care which will be provided and there will be no income discrimination. The system will be administered from a central Health Security Board under the supervision of the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).

The Health Security system will be funded nationally from general tax monies. Plans for the system will function through existing laws and organizations (e.g. Comprehensive Health planning, Regional Health planning, and Area Wide planning).

The secretary for HEW will have overall responsibility. Existing programs such as Medicare and Medicaid will be incorporated into the system.

There are major advantages embodied in the bill. The health benefits are almost comprehensive (there are limits in dental care and drugs). The plan means we will not have to pay out of our own pockets at least directly. ALSO costs and quality are controlled by the Health Security Board and not by the medical profession itself.

Disadvantages of System

The system also has some disadvantages . 60% of the revenues are collected as a flat rate on everyone (like Social Security). A fairer way would be to tax people according to income and wealth.

Under this plan, our taxes pay for our health care but our taxes are unfair There is also insufficient provision for the training of more people to work in the health field.

This system is an improvement over what we have now, but it lacks the help of consumers, you and I who use the health system will not review its merits under this law. The Health Security Board will. A result will surely be we will have a national system to pay for poor health care out of our taxes.

AMA Opposition

The Health Security Act is opposed by the American Medical Association (AMA). Drug and insurance companies are attempting to prevent this legislation and introduce their own. Both the Nixon Administration and the AMA have put forward proposals.

Both are similar. The Nixon plan would subsidize insurance for poorer people (e.g. families with income below $5620 per year). There would be no aid for families abovethis level. It would be a bonanza for doctors and insurance companies.

The AMA proposal would provide financial aid to poorer families through income tax credits for insurance with free insurance for families with an income below $300 per year. The middle income groups will not be helped at all. The coverage in both of these proposals will remain incomplete.

The first 50% of each hospital stay and 20% of the first $500 of medical services will be payed out of our pockets. There is no cost control and the system is administered by the doctors as now.

Lamaze Babies: Alive, Alert and Active

by Kathy & John Moldenhauer
and Liz & Harry Henderson

In the July 15 issue of Modern Times, these four writers talked about their preparation in the Lamaze method for childbirth. Now, after the arrival of Andrew Melville Henderson (July 19) and Sarah Moldenhauer (July 25), they assess their experiences.

"Who me ?" says Andrew Melville Henderson (left) while Sarah Moldenhauer pretends not to hear. (M-T photo by C. Polan.)

Was the experience what you expected?

Kathy: I had no real defined expectations. I had hoped that I would be able to deliver without any anaesthetic and that I could watch the whole thing. Most of all, I hoped that the baby could be born alert and active and not under the effects of any drugs. All of these things turned out to be true.

John: It was what I hoped for and much more exciting than I had expected. I was hyper the whole time and for a day after. It was just a great experience.

Liz: Because I was so prepared through the course, and reading all the descriptions of other women' s Lamaze deliveries, I was much calmer than I expected to be. The delivery itself went much much faster than either I or my doctor thought it would.

Harry: *I had thought the experience would be kind of nice, but I underestimated how excited I would be.*

People often speak of labor "pains." Was your childbirth painful?

Kathy: There were some contractions that, because of the rectal pressure I felt from the baby' s head, were very uncomfortable. Had I not known from the Lamaze course that contractions usually last only 60 seconds or so, I . would have panicked. As it was, John was calling out the number of seconds that had passed. When he said 30 seconds, I knew that just 15 or 30 seconds of the contraction were left and that I could stand it.

Liz: During most of the labor the contractions weren' t painful at all. But I did have a pain in my back. For about an hour the contractions felt like severe menstrual pains, but for the three hours I spent in the hospital I was so busy contracting and breathing and blowing and pushing that I didn' t have time to experience anything like pain.

So yes, there was some pain, but none which didn't pass in a bearable amount of time. It's kind of like stubbing your toe or cracking your elbow: It hurts so much you think you can't stand it , but you do, because you know it won't last.

Is there anything you would have done differently?

Kathy: Nope. As I told a friend of mine right after the birth, if I could have written the script myself, it wouldn't have been any different.

Liz: No.

John: I only wish we had someone there with a camera.

Traditionally, women have made a big deal of how many hours they were in labor. Was your labor very long?

Kathy: Women who talk about hours of labor have always seemed to imply that that meant hours of pain. I was in labor for eight hours, but for nearly the first five of these eight hours I was able to continue my regular activities.

Liz: When I called my doctor with contractions every three minutes, he thought I didn't sound uncomfortable enough to come to the hospital. Even aside from Lamaze, Kathy and I seem to have had unusually easy deliveries for a first baby.

How did you find the attitude of doctors and hospital staff?

Kathy: I'm really glad that question came up, because the "before" ' article mentioned that I expected to feel manipulated by the hospital staff. This was not at all true. The nurses in the maternity wing were very cooperative. They encouraged my breast feeding although I had heard from other women that they discouraged mothers who were trying to breast feed.

Liz: Since my baby came so fast, my own doctor missed the delivery and a resident did the honors. Even though we hadn't discussed Lamaze with the resident, he was completely cooperative.

Would you do it again the same way with another baby?

Liz: Yes. I would go through the final stage of delivery where one actually pushes the baby out again anytime.

Kathy: There is just no way of knowing the thrill and joy of watching and feeling, by the strength of your pushing your child emerging into the world. And to have done that without John's presence throughout the labor and delivery would have made for a much shallower experience.

How did the husbands like being with their wives during labor and delivery?

John: Great. I was very happy to be involved. Knowing what was happening was much better than expecting the worst from another room.

Harry: When I was growing up, I had always understood that the big moment for the father was when after a night of chainsmoking in a waiting room or getting plastered in a bar near the hospital, the nurse comes out and says, "It's a boy!" or "It's a girl!" When our baby emerged, with Lizzie pushing and me supporting her, I was astounded to see that the kid had a gender. You're so involved with the process, and so anxious to see the baby alive and kicking, that its having a sex, too, was a big surprise.

Church St. South

Officials Stall on Rte.1

by Cookie Polan
Modern Times Staff

Mayor Guida has refused several invitations from the residents of the Church Street South housing co-op to come and inspect the area where Columbus Avenue runs through the housing project and which has become a center of controversy.

However, the resolution passed unanimously by the Board of Aldermen on July 12 calling for permanent closing of the section of Columbus Avenue between Church Street South and South Orange Street went into effect on July 26 without the mayor's signature, because he took no action on it for ten days.

Although it may seem that the issue is now settled, the stalling goes on and the residents know they must continue their fight.

The main problem remaining now is with the state Department of Transportation. Because Columbus Avenue is designated U.S. Route 1 through New Haven, both city and state approval are necessary to close any part of it.

At an injunction hearing in early July, the state Department of Transportation agreed to go along with whatever decision the Board of Aldermen made.

But at a meeting with Church Street South residents on July 29, after the Aldermanic resolution was passed, Deputy Commissioner of Transportation George Koch said he could not commit himself to closing that part of the road until surveys were made about the effects of rerouting traffic.

Kids vs. Traffic Flow

But, as Mrs. Lois Santos--a tenant and organizer of the successful protest that has kept the road closed--pointed out, the road has been closed for repairs and repaving for more than two months and there has been plenty of time to study the traffic situation.

At the meeting Koch said he had to be concerned with the smooth flow of *traffic. Mrs. Santos countered, "We don't care about making it easier to get to I-91, we care about these kids."*

There are more than 1000 children living in the project and Columbus Avenue separates many of the housing units from a playground on the other side.

At present, the road is still closed, except for a small portion which has been repaved to allow residents access to their homes.

Filth at Conn. Mental Health Center Ignored

by Cookie Polan
Modern Times Staff

A former patient at the Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC) has charged that the fifth floor is "filthy "and that most of the facilities are broken.

Several weeks ago, I visited CMHC with the patient, and we found that there was no faucet on the women's shower (it had been removed because the shower ran all weekend and could not be turned off); the dial to turn on the washing machine had been broken off; the bathrooms and kitchens were extremely dirty; shades were missing from windows in some patients' rooms; and the pool table was broken.

According to Mr. Joe Harris of the Black Coalition, who also toured the fifth floor and confirmed the patient's allegations, the fault does not lie with the floor administrator, Kermit Nash, who has been making complaints and submitting requisitions for repairs for eight months.

Complaints Ignored

Rather, Harris said, the problem is one of "authority being ignored". He is planning a meeting with black department heads and supervisors to discuss this problem. Harris added, "It's either poor administration, poor communication, or disrespect for the authority of a black *department head." Nash is black.*

Harris, who is on the state advisory board of CMHC, said, "Filth in a mental health center is a very serious problem. When people are forced to take showers without hot water, they are susceptible to all kinds of disease."

The former patient has filed a complaint with the Black Coalition, asking them to initiate an investigation.

Day Care Center Caters to the Kids

The Fair Haven Betterment Association Nursery School operates a varied program for children of ages 3-5 at St. James Episcopal Church, 62 Grand Ave. The School is now seeking contributions because of a desperate financial situation. Mary Haddon and Nancy Caswell staff the School. (MT photo by K. Mallea.)

Markets Super-Price the Poor

by Gene Qualman
Reprinted from Consumer's Voice

The "average "supermarket shopper never had it so good. He can drive (since 90% of all average consumers own cars) to a modern, clean chain store, select from many product brands, and choose a variety of products--most of which are of excellent quality.

What's more, if he is not satisfied with the prices or quality in one chain store, he can drive to competing stores. This mobility is a boon to the average consumer. It tends to keep chain stores on their toes so they won't lose his business.

But what about the not-so-average supermarket shoppers, the poor consumers who comprise about 30% of the total U.S. population? Theirs is a sad and discriminatory story. Studies have found that the poor consumer, who often has the least to spend, must pay *higher* food prices, at lower-quality stores, for exactly the same products and brand names the average-income consumers can purchase.

These price-quality differences exist among chain stores *owned by the same company*. These popular, well-known chains regularly practice discrimination against the poor.

Low-Income Shoppers

One study reveals that the low-income consumer pays 14.2% *more* than the average consumer for the same batch of products, even though both groups shop in stores of the same supermarket chain, *and in the same town.*

The differences don't stop here. Low-income-area stores have fewer services available, fewer product discounts, and fewer sales days. The chain stores used by the poor consumer are far less clean than those patronized by higher-income earners. Some of the food items have even been found placed on the *floors* instead of shelves.

The poor consumer doesn't have the same range of meat choices as the average consumer,, and meat has been found to be significantly poorer in quality in the inner city. There is also evidence that chain supermarkets in the low-income areas use more deceptive merchandising and food-weighing tactics.

Why do the supermarket chains do these things? Mainly because *they know they can get away with it*. The studies point out that public transportation is inadequate or nonexistent for the poor consumer. Moreover, less than one-half of poor consumers own their own cars. So they are literally trapped in their own neighborhoods.

Poor People Trapped in Neighborhoods

Supermarket managers in these areas know that the poor consumer, unlike the average shopper, cannot travel across town to get better buys and service. They exploit this "consumer captivity" to the hilt. And they suffer no loss of customers. Unable to travel, and caught in this vicious supermarket trap, the poor consumer must take what he can get.

Discrimination against the poor is difficult to fight because it is hard to "prove" that it is deliberate. Store managers can claim--as they have in the past--that they are forced to raise prices to meet costs, or to make up for smaller business volume. They similarly "justify" the fewer services in low-income areas.

One way to help solve the problem would be to improve transportation in the low-income areas so that poor consumers could be more selective in their choice of super-markets. This could break the vicious grip of the low-income area store managers.

State Employees Demand Living Cost Catch-Up

from advertisement in *Journal-Courier* paid for by AFSCME and CSEA

State employees have issued an urgent appeal for a cost of living wage increase to the governor and the General Assembly.

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 16 and the Connecticut State Employees Association (CSEA) claim that the cost of living in Connecticut has gone up over 6% over the past year and is still rising.

At the same time, the wages of municipal employees have increased between 5% and 14% and raises averaging over 10% have been granted workers in private industry.

Platform Promises

The state employees maintain that both the Democrats and the Republicans promised a cost-of-living adjustment in their pre-election platforms.

AFSCME and CSEA say that no additional taxes would be required to provide the cost-of-living increases for two main reasons:
1. The Governor has frozen all jobs. Vacancies are not being filled. Employees are doubling up to get the work out. The "freeze" will result in a surplus of more than $8 million in personnel money by the end of the fiscal year.
2. All departments have been ordered to cut back 11.5% in expenditures. As a result, whole sections of departments and even some small agencies have been or will be wiped out. Many employees are being forced into retirement. Again, state employees are "doubling up" to get the work out. These cutbacks will add about $32 million in the personnel money account.

The ad appeal ends with:
"Justice demands that a small part of this surplus be utilized to keep Connecticut's state employees from falling farther behind the daily battle with the rising cost of living."

Panthers Await Appeal of Bail Motion

Rory Hithe
(Photo from Black Panther Party)

by Cookie Polan
Modern Times Staff

In separate actions, one judge has denied a motion to dismiss the case against Black Panthers Rory Hithe and Landon Williams because of prejudicial pre-trial publicity, and another has granted the defendants bail.

In granting $35,000 bail each to Williams and Hithe, who are charged in the death of Alex Rackley, Judge Herbert MacDonald ruled that there was not a "fair likelihood" that the defendants would be convicted on capital charges.

He based part of his decision on the history of the other cases which arose from the same grand jury indictment. In none of the cases have defendants been convicted of capital crimes.

Currently both Panthers remain in jail since the State is appealing the decision to grant bail and MacDonald granted a State motion to stay the discharge from prison until the State Supreme Court rules on it.

A motion filed by defense attorney Hugh Keefe to vacate that ruling because neither defendants or counsel were present when it was made was heard last Friday.

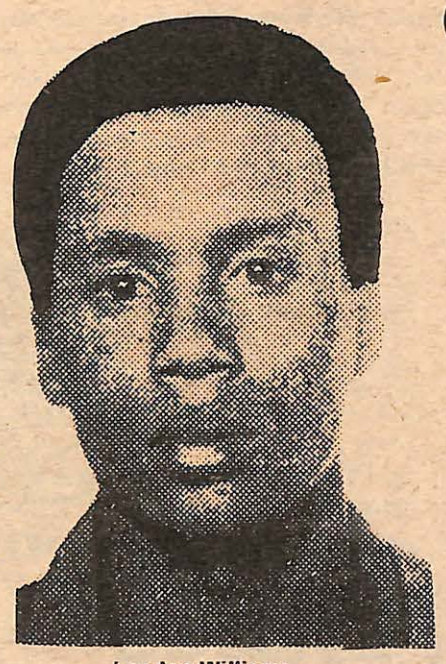
Keefe argued that the defendants had a constitutional right to be present at that hearing and that he, their counsel, was not notified about it either.

State's attorney Barnett said that since Judge MacDonald was leaving on vacation, the hearing had to be held quickly.

Judge O'Sullivan is expected to rule on Keefe's motion to vacate this week.

Judge Aaron Palmer, in denying the motion to dismiss, said his ruling could be reviewed at the time of jury selection. He indicated that if the jury selection process showed there was community prejudice, the charges would have to be dropped at that time.

When it hears the State's appeal against the granting of bail, the Connecticut Supreme Court will also hear an appeal by Keefe claiming that the amount of bail set was excessive. Both cases will probably be heard next week.



Landon Williams
(Photo from Black Panther Party)

Granting of Bail

According to the constitution, bail must be granted except when the "presumption is great" and the "proof is evident" that the defendants will be convicted of a capital crime.

Based on his impressions of the past trials connected with this case, MacDonald said there was not "a fair likelihood" of conviction.

Neither Palmer nor MacDonald nor O'Sullivan will be the trial judge, according to attornev Keefe. He said it is possible that the case will be heard by Judge Harold Mulvey, who presided at the recent trial of Bobby Seale and Eri-Ericka Huggins.

In a related development, David Rosen, co-counsel for Bobby Seale, may be entering the case on behalf of one of the defendants. Until now, Keefe, who was appointed a special public defender for this case, has been representing both Williams and Hithe.

However, in any conspiracy case, there is a conflict of interest in representing two alleged co-conspirators, so another defense attorney is needed. Walter Garash, a Denver lawyer, will also serve as a defense counsel.

Center Welcomes Women

by Linda Garson
Women's Liberation

The Women's Center is an information bureau for Women's Liberation activities, including women 's services, in New Haven. It's a place where women of all ages are welcome to share a cup of coffee, to talk about themselves, their lives, and problems. "When women come to us with needs and demands, we see how we can best meet them, "Connie Mayer, one of the Center 's staffers explained. It 's located in a Yale building on Elm Street, near College Street.

The Women's Center is staffed by women who volunteer several hours of their time each week. Monday through Friday, there's a social worker at the Center from 10-12 a.m. There are also two social workers, whose phone numbers are available at the Center and who will take calls from women at any time of day or night.

The Women's Center has compiled several lists of New Haven therapists, lawyers, health services for women, and available jobs. Two consciousness-raising groups have gotten started as the result of women expressing an interest in this to the Women's Center. Pamphlets and articles about housing and welfare rights, day care, housework, lesbianism, and other women's liberation issues are available for women to either read at the Center or purchase at a small cost.

The Center has received calls asking for all kinds of help, including one from a lawyer whose client, a twenty-five year old woman, had just been released from Norwich State Hospital, having been committed there by her parents. The Women's Center was able to help out by finding this woman a place to stay in New Haven.

Information about the upcoming Lesbian-Feminist Conference, August 20-22, is obtainable at the Center. Workshops at the conference will discuss such issues as monogomy, coming out, lesbians and the law, old gay, and developing a gay community. Admission to the conference is $6.00.

Another activity supported by the Women's Center is "Talk with Women," a series of Wednesday evening discussions. These discussions deal with marriage, singleness, motherhood, women in jobs outside the home, and women in prisons. Women are meeting each Wednesday through October 6 at the Unitarian Church, 608 Whitney Avenue in New Haven.

For further information, call the Women's Center at 436-0272 or write to 3438 Yale Station, New Haven, 06520. Better yet, come in and talk with us.

BOOK REVIEW

Lemonade with Plenty of Punch

by Kathy Moldenhauer

Assistant Editor of a Children's Book Club

The Lemonade Murder *by Thoger Birkeland. Translated from the Danish by Virginia Allen Jensen.* Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, $ 3.95 (8 - 12).

Meet Anne, Tina and Jan. They are the three unusual children of Mom and Dad, not altogether usual themselves. Mom beats Dad in wrestling matches on the lawn and smokes one cigarillo after another when she's nervous. In fact, Mom seems so much stronger than Dad that the three children start a club of three- the PFU, Protect Father Union.

The three discover that, although their mother may be stronger then their dad, he can be stubborn. They lose interest in the PFU and call themselves the Teodorians, in honor of their new baby brother. Their mother makes them take Teodore for walks in his carriage. The attention given them by the neighborhood bullies on one such outing inspires this new interest.

There are times when one might wonder who will protect Teodore from the Teodorians. On one stroll with the baby, they are barrelling down the street so fast with the carriage that a man yells, "I hope you don't have a baby in there." to which Mighty Anne responds, "The hell we don't."

Cousin Peter Comes to Visit

A threat to the safety of Teodore looms in the person of Cousin Peter who is coming to spend a few weeks while his father is away on a business trip. Anne *has decided that Peter is a disturbed child because his father and mother are divorced. She has read in a "book about* bringing up kids, the one Mom and Dad read all the time to make sure they're bringing us up right" that "What the book says about disturbed kids fits (Peter) exactly. From some disturbed kids you can expect almost anything, because they are full of hate. Most of all they hate people who try to be nice to them. Once a disturbed child murdered his mother."

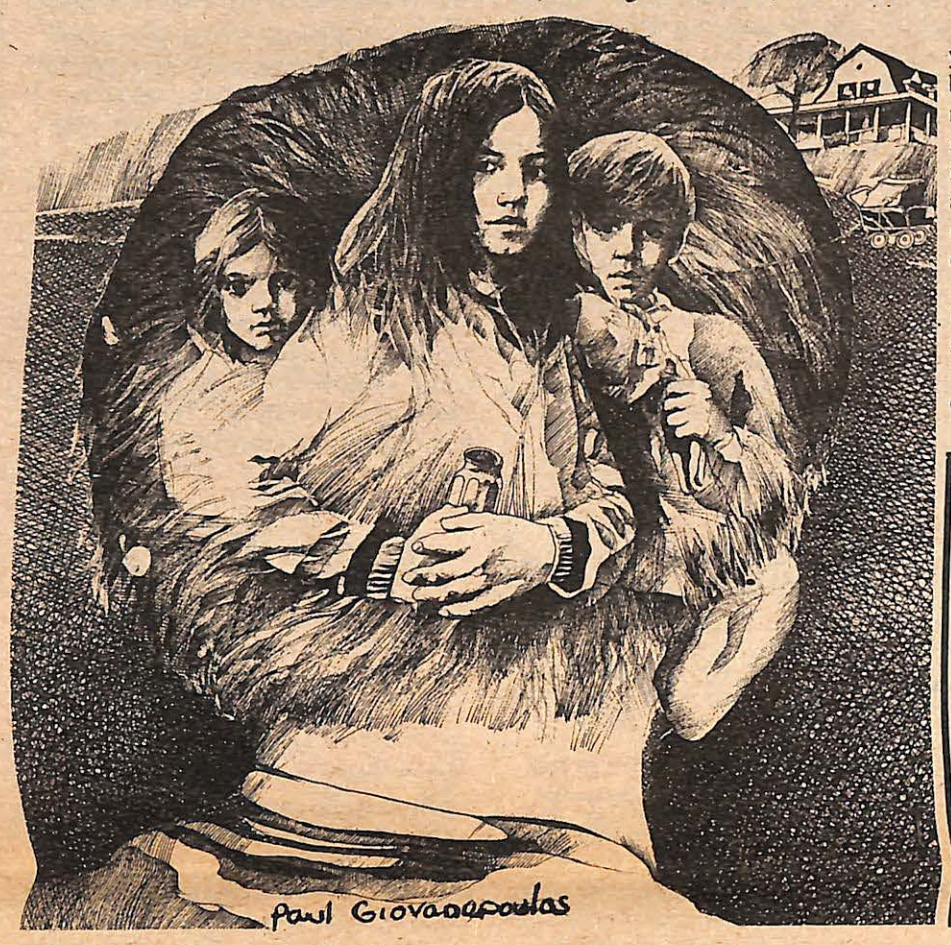
These "facts," along with the overheard statement of Mother's that "Peter will be the death of me yet!" puts the Teodorians on guard. They steal some arsenic from the greenhouse of their neighbor, Mr. Olsen. As a trial run, they pay a visit to their feeble Aunt Amelia who has an aged and molting canary named Bernhard. Anne slips some Arsenic into Bernhard's water and the effectiveness of the arsenic is confirmed.

Mighty Anne

Mighty Anne is the ringleader of the Teodorians by virtue of her age and her physical fitness. Each morning she "hangs by her knees from an apple tree branch out in the yard and turns inside out. and then does twenty-five chin-ups. Then she runs around the yard several times, startling the rest of (the family) every time she flashes past the window... After she has a cold shower, she comes to the dining room and eats a huge bowl of oatmeal."

She arranges a picnic for the Teodorians, Peter and Teodore. She very carefully makes everyone's sandwiches and separate containers of lemonade which she labels with each child's name. At the picnic site, she has just called the others together for their lunches when Teodore's carriage begins to roll over a cliff. Peter is the one who rushes to the rescue. He himself is apparently rescued by the incident too, because the carreening carriage spills all of the lemonade.

An unusual plot for a children's book you say? Well, yes. But the tone of the book makes for entertaining reading. The reader is never really sure that the arsenic was in that jar of lemonade. But more importantly, the characters and situations are dealt with in such a way that no prototypes of little girls, little boys, or parents are put down on the juvenile reader. And topics like farting that are familiar to kids but often thought to be tabu by suddenly prudish parents are not avoided. Read it first, then let your kids groove on it. You'll all love it.



A JOB FOR THE FBI

NEW YORK (LNS) - - According to the Washington Post which recently ran a feature story on J. Edgar Hoover:

"The FBI chief will not touch the delicacies he receives from unknown admirers; he fears someone might slip him some poisoned food. He donates these delectables to orphanages and other institutions."

Midnight Mary: A Haunting Legend

by Craig O'Connell

Warning: The author of this article refuses to be held accountable for any strange or bizarre experiences happening to anyone, dead or alive, who reads this account.

"If you dare to sit on her grave at the stroke of midnight, she will come up from the dead and haunt you."

The legend was first known to have become popular around the area of Legion and Sylvan Avenues in the vicinity of the cemetery and to have spread throughout the Hill, Newhallville, Dwight, Dixwell and West Rock neighborhoods, where it is now frightfully related as both fact and fantasy by young children.

Some children maintain that Mary is really a mysterious midnight traveler on a white horse and only sleeps in the cemetery. Others seriously swear to have encountered the old woman as she came visiting them in their bedrooms. Still others insist that if you pay a visit to her gravestone at the witching hour and when the moon is full, she will happily rise up and join you in a friendly game of poker. Although the stakes for losing are said to be quite high--your life--Mary is not known to excel at poker. Nevertheless, I personally have never been adventuresome enough to challenge her.

Modern Times research indicates that Mary Hart, Midnight Mary's name in life, worked as a machine stitcher in New Haven. She lived most of her mature life on George Street, moving from No. 44 to No. 235 George and later to 269 Orange Street, where she probably died. Research also shows that she married the same man as either her mother or a much older sister. It seems that both Mary Pierpont and Fidelia Pierpont, who was 24 years older than Mary, were wed to the same James P. Hart, who mostly lived with his mother on Orange Street.

If by chance some night, you become desperate for adventure you might dare to wander off into the direction of Evergreen Cemetery and find yourself mysteriously summoned to a game of poker with MIDNIGHT MARY.

THE PEOPLE SHALL BE TROUBLED AT MIDNIGHT AND PASS AWAY.
AT HIGH NOON,
JUST FROM, AND ABOUT TO RENEW
HER DAILY WORK, IN HER FULL STRENGTH OF
BODY AND MIND,
MARY E. HART,
HAVING FALLEN PROSTRATE,
REMAINED UNCONSCIOUS UNTIL SHE DIED AT MIDNIGHT,
OCTOBER 15, 1872.
BORN DECEMBER 16, 1824.

Ready for a High Noon at Midnight? Try some draw poker at this groovy gravestone. Just be sure you don't let Midnight Mary cut the cards.

(M.T. photo by Alan Kay)

Folks, young and old, who are native to New Haven, have told this story so often that it has become a popular folk tale in the city. The tale is popularly known as the Legend of Midnight Mary and originated from the strange epitaph on a gravestone in Evergreen Cemetery, just off Winthrop Avenue.

A Federal Appeals Court in New York will hear an appeal by East Haven residents who wish to keep part of Tweed-New Haven Airport's longest runway closed. The 829-foot section in question is behind the horizontal white line. Although a federal judge ruled in June that the whole runway should be opened and used, it has remained closed pending the appeals court decision. The dispute centers on the use of air space. The suit claims that approaching airplanes using the full runway fly over 74 acres of land that were bought illegally without the permission of the town of East Haven. In the June ruling, however, the judge said that the federal government, not East Haven, had control over that airspace.

(M-T photo by C. Polan.)

Fair Rent: No Hearings Yet

by Raphael Podolsky

Law Student Working With Dickerman St. Rent Strike

Eighteen months ago the New Haven Board of Aldermen passed a Fair Rent Ordinance "for the purpose of controlling and eliminating excessive rental charges "on housing in the city. Despite the continuing rise in rents, there has yet to be a single hearing under the ordinance.

The first two cases to be set down for hearings before the Fair Rent Commission (FRC) have now been blocked by a suit by two landlords and the Greater New Haven Landlords Association (GNHLA). They feel that the Fair Rent Ordinance is rent control and want the Fair Rent Commission declared unconstitutional.

One of the landlords is John F. Fiorillo, whose tenant at 81 Chatham Street complained when he raised the rent from $75 per month to $125 per month on June 1. The other landlord is the Sacks Realty Company, whose tenant at 544 Howard Avenue objected to the $160 per month rent. The Sacks building has also been cited by the city for housing code violations.

Sacks Realty Company and Fiorillo claim that the Fair Rent Commission deprives landlords of the fair value of their property and "invidiously discriminates against landlords." A hearing on the landlords' motion for an injunction was heard in New Haven Superior Court on August 10.

Action Suspended

Because of the suit, the Fair Rent Commission has suspended action on the dozen or so complaints it has so far received, even though the Fair Rent Ordinance requires that a hearing be held within thirty days of the filing of the complaint. Morris Olmer, legal counsel to the FRC, says that hearings will proceed after the Superior Court issues its decision.

The landlords who have filed suit against the FRC appear to be the very sort the Commission was intended to control. All are large landholders owning numerous pieces of property in New Haven.

Robert Maffeo of the Rea-Maffeo Realty, a leader of the GNHLA, is the owner of the buildings on Hazel and Grant Streets in which the tenants are fighting housing code violations and large rent hikes.

John Fiorillo, a resident of Northford, owns at least four rental properties in New Haven with a total assessed valuation of $42,000. Their actual market value is probably over $100,000. The Sacks Realty Co. owns in its own name, apart from any buildings it manages, 30 New Haven buildings assessed at $365,150. Their real market value, one can guess, is close to $1,000,000.

In 1969 the Connecticut General Assembly passed a statute permitting cities to adopt fair rent ordinances, under which the New Haven ordinance was enacted in January, 1970. Enforcement powers were given to the Commission on Equal Opportunities (C.E.O.)

Nothing Done

C.E.O., however, claimed it was too busy and did nothing. After a year's delay, the ordinance was amended in January, 1971, to create a separate Fair Rent Commission (FRC) of nine members, of whom at least five would be tenants.

But Mayor Guida dragged his feet and did not appoint the members of the Commission until March 31. Then the Commission did not choose an executive director, its chief enforcement officer, until late May, when it appointed James R. Johnson, a real estate broker and former head of the Vermin Control Demonstration Program of the Department of Health.

The FRC's basic job under the ordinance is to determine whether the rent is "so excessive ... as to be harsh and unconscionable." The rent, in other words, must be more than "just" excessive. This has been confirmed by FRC Chairman Lurie, who expects the FRC to deal only with cases which are "really blatant."

In determining a fair rent, the FRC, is supposed to consider a number of factors, which include:

– Compliance with the Housing Code and the cost of bringing the building into compliance;
– Landlord's expenses;
– Comparable rents elsewhere;
– Sanitary conditions of the apartment;
– Income of the tenant and availability to him of less expensive accomodations.

If the Commission finds the rent excessive, it can order it reduced and, if there are Housing Code violations, have the tenant pay rent into an escrow account until the violations are corrected. A provision in the original ordinance to permit the Commission to use the escrow to make repairs on its own was deleted in the 1971 amendments.

Slow Process

In addition, the ordinance has no explicit rent maximums, such as a limit on the landlord's percentage of profit, or a maximum rent per room. This means *that every case must be decided individually under the most general of standards, a process that is not only slow, but encourages the landlord to plead all sorts of special considerations.*

Because there have been no cases, there is no way to judge at this stage how firm the FRC is willing to be with landlords. But the statements of the FRC's spokesmen indicate grounds to doubt that the commission will have any significant effect.

Commissioner Lurie, for example, sees the FRC's chief role not as vigorous enforcement, but as "conciliation." He stresses the importance of permitting the landlord a "fair return on his investment."

Executive Director Johnson also has stressed that the Commission will be fair to landlords as well as tenants. He is a strong proponent of mediation between landlord and tenant, but in a statement last month he declared that the idea that the Commission will be nothing but a mediator is "gross wishful thinking" by landlords. "The Fair Rent Commission," he said, "intends to use all legal powers vested in it to the full extent of the law, when deemed necessary."

The only way to put the Fair Rent Commission to a test is for tenants who believe that they are being overcharged to file complaints and force the Commission to hold hearings and end its self-imposed suspension of activity.

Hazel Street Strike

continued from page 1

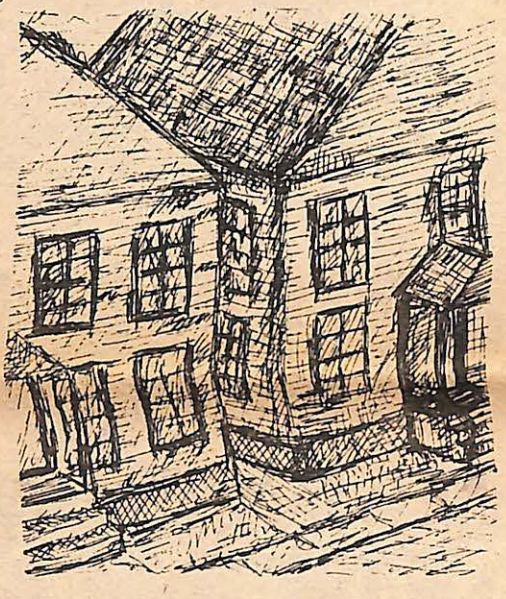
particularly to welfare clients, because the welfare department has in the past been willing to pay excessive rents. In addition, if a welfare client falls behind in the rent, the landlord can have the state pay his rent directly, thus making it impossible for him to go on rent strike.

This may explain why the Greater New Haven Landlords Association, of which Joseph Rea and Robert Maffeo are leaders, has suddenly become a champion of welfare rights and has allied with the Welfare MOMS in their effort to fight the state's proposed $160 per month rent maximum for welfare clients.

Unlike the rent strike on Dickerman Street, which has produced major building repairs, neither the participants nor Attorney Dolan consider the Hazel Street strike to have been a success. "I don't consider it much of a victory for the tenants or people of New Haven," said Dolan, "because we didn't really get the houses fixed."

Rent Strikes

The two most important differences between the two strikes appear to have been the permanence of the tenants and the availability of outside organizing help.



Nearly all the families at Dickerman Street had lived there more than three years, and many had been there over a decade. Almost half had participated in a rent strike in the same buildings in 1963. During the 12 months of the strike, only two of 16 families chose to move.

In contrast, the Hazel Street tenants were more transient and, once the rent strike began, many moved out, either due to fear of eviction or in search of a better place to live. O the original group of strikers, only th remain on rent strike, and the ea strike organizers are no longer th Gwendolyn Lewis's attitude is ty "I've been trying to get out of h as long as I've been here," she said

In addition, as Dolan says, "t was no Treny Hines around to c municate the problems of the te ts to the proper people." Mrs. Hi as the Urban League field worker v helped in the Dickerman Street e.

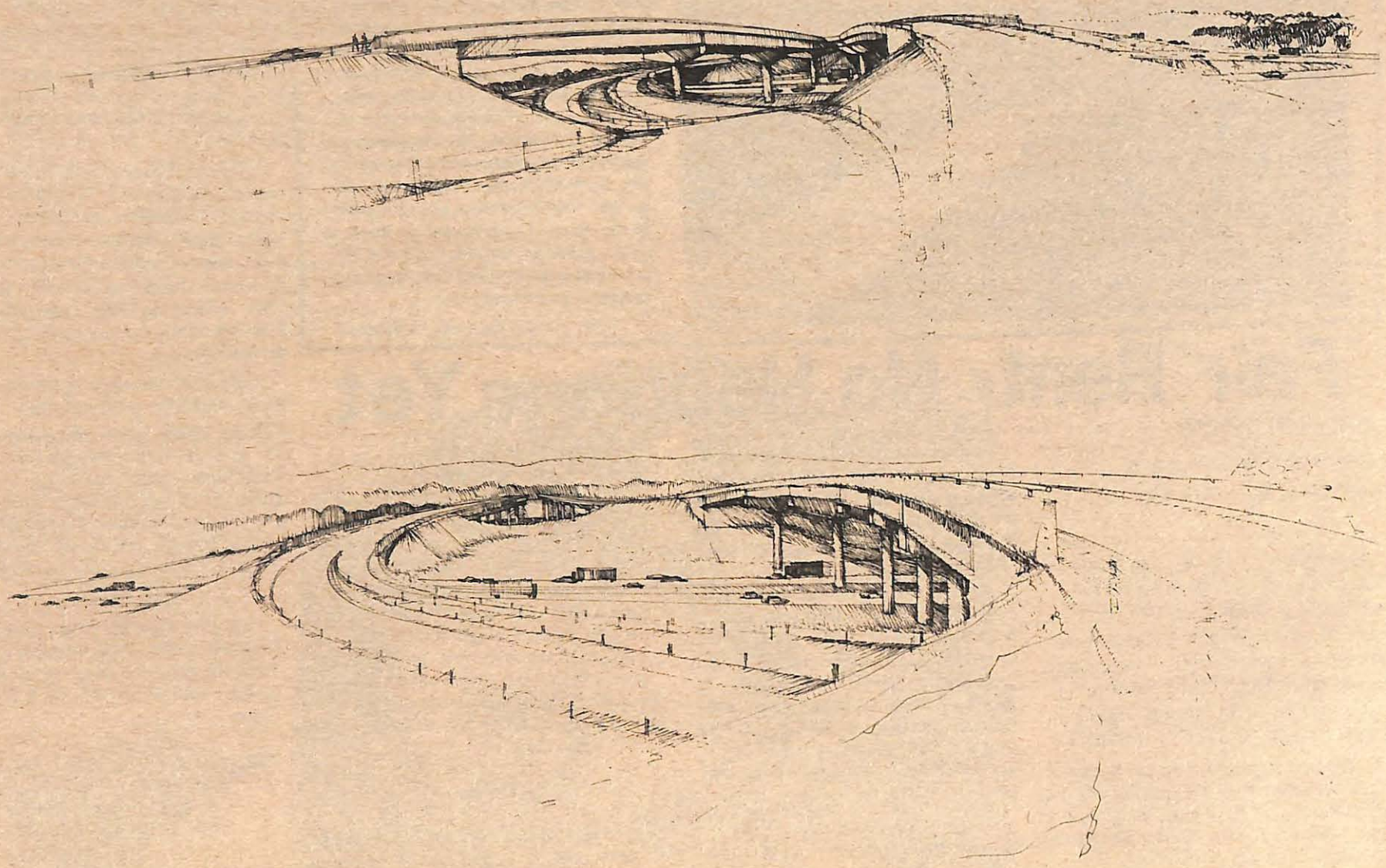
Tenants Have Power

Nevertheless, the tenants beli that they have hurt the landlord eco cally and have now forced him to n iate on the important issue of what nt will be. Mrs. Lewis' victory has ly forced Rea-Maffeo, for the first to consider serious negotiation wit tenants if it wants to recover th s they have withheld.

It also shows that it is possib tenants to have some voice in th amount of rent they pay. Dolan med up the results as, "Tenants who j together and don't panic when t landlord starts threatening can ha significant effect over their own d iny in the housing market."

Abbi Rayder
I WON'T KNOW FOR OVER 3 WEEKS IF I QUALIFY FOR UNEM-PLOYMENT??
BUT HOW DO I EAT TILL THEN? AND PAY MY RENT AND...
NEXT?
...BUT...
MAYBE YOU COULD PITCH A TENT IN THE LOBBY..?
770
©BETTY MURRAY 8-71

URBAN SEEN: The Highway Octopus, Part II



by Bill & Shoshana Hersey

Here are some views of about 9 million dollars worth of nothing, covering 450 acres of completely denuded landscape in North Haven - an area twice the size of the original nine blocks of downtown New Haven. *The Mt. Carmel Connector is so badly planned that 5 bridges had to be built instead of one. They say it is to connect I-91 and the* Wilbur Cross, but the biggest, fastest ramp is northbound from New Haven to Hamden center. There are no exits to North Haven at all. The surrounding properties - Marlin Firearms, DeFelice Construction, and the Penn Central - and the connector's proximity to the pending Hamden Mall site raise some interesting questions about what the *public has been told vs. what is actually going on.*

Classified

Beginning with the September 1 issue, all subscribers to *Modern Times* will be given free classified ad space. Subscribers are encouraged to submit ads.

Wanted: Two strong young people to help two students move on August 31. Pay will be $2.50 an hour. Reply to Modern Times.

FOR SALE: MGB–7500 Miles; Dark Green; AM-FM Radio; Radials; Snow Tires; Tonneau Cover; $2650. Call 562-2510

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With A Lot of Help From Our Friends

Modern Times has been able to continue to publish only because some of our readers have responded generously to our recent fundraising appeal. We express deep thanks to these friends of the progressive movement for their prompt support in our time of crisis. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

We must still, however, appeal to those friends who have not yet given. Our needs are truly desperate. We have cut our expenses to the bleeding bone and have made severe cutbacks in order to pay off some pressing debts. Yet our deficit is still far over our head. Please help now in one or more of the following ways:

- ––making a donation
- ––taking out a $15 sponsoring subscription
- ––extending a regular $7.50 subscription for a year
- ––purchasing advertising space
- ––giving $7.50 gift subscriptions
- ––contributing a certain amount each month

"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for enough good people to do nothing."

––**The Modern Times Staff**

Where to Buy Modern Times

Fair Haven: Wil-Mor's, Grand-James; Marie's, Grand-Lloyd; Fair Haven Parents Ministry, Grand-James; Sal's Sandwich Shop, 188 Grand; Lenny's Market, St. Johns-Chestnut; Pequot Drug, Grand-East Pearl.

Downtown: Red's Newstand, Elm-State; Hotel Taft Newstand, College Street; News Depot, Orange-George; Band Box, Chapel near College; Whitlock's, Broadway; Morton's, Broadway; Angela Davis Bookstore, Broadway.

Hill: Beirne's, Howard-Columbus; Wil-mor's, Congress-Hallock; Len-Mac Cleaners, Howard-Sylvan; Martinez Grocery, Washington-West; Salt & Pepper, Congress-Cedar.

Hamden: Cherry Hill Pharmacy, 1830 Dixwell; Soybel Pharmacy, Dixwell-Wooding.

West Haven: Silver's, Campbell-Main; Liggett's, Campbell-Center; Rivoli Luncheonette, Campbell-Center.

Newhallville: Joe & Jessie's No. 1, Shelton-Bassett; Davis-Waller, Goodrich-Newhall; Visel Drugs, Dixwell-Bassett; Bob's Market, Dixwell-Division.

State-Orange: Standard Food Market, 852 State; Orange-Grove Pharmacy; Whitney Pharmacy, near Edwards; Orange Market, 500 Orange.

Dixwell: Davis-Waller, Dixwell Plaza; Sunrise Luncheonette, Dixwell Plaza; Lake Variety, Dixwell-Lake Pl.; Windsor Drugs, Winchester-Webster.

Westville: Beaver Hill Pharmacy, Fitch-Blake; Westville Pharmacy, Fountain-Central; Coyne Stationery, Amity Center; Lurie's Pharmacy, Whalley-Dayton.

Dwight: Nu-way Market, Howe-Chapel; Group W, Dwight-Edgewood; Howe Food Basket, cor. Edgewood; Volpe's Pharmacy, Chapel-Beers; Gilbert Pharmacy, cor. Greenwood; Esquire, Chapel-Orchard.

Mid-town: Book World, Chapel-York; Chapel Book Shoppe, Chapel-York; Downstairs Gallery, York near Chapel; Thomas' Market, Norton-George; Audio Showcase, Whalley-Winthrop; LaBella's Luncheonette, 433 Chapel; Our Food Store, Whalley-Winthrop; Gary's New York Deli, 1207 Chapel; Ray's Coffee Shop, York-Chapel; Omnibus, Park near Crown.